Measures adopted for tackling environmental problem

700 SRI G. B. SHANKAR RAO(Hirekerur) —Will the Minister for Municipal Administration be pleased to state:—

(a) the arrangements made for environmental protection in the State;

(b) the measures adopted for tackling environmental problems ;

(c) the progress made so far in this regard?

SRI H. C. SRIKANTAIAH (Minister for Municipal Administration).—

(a) The State Environmental Committee for Environmental Planning and Co-ordination six sub-committees to deal with different environmental aspects, the Karnataka State Board for Prevention and Control of Water Pollution and the Westren Ghats Development Committee have been constituted.

(b) The following measures have been taken up for tackling environmental problems;

(i) Guidelines have been issued to preserve the ecological balance,

(ii) The State Environmental Committee has decided that all major projects to be implemented in the Western Ghats Region have to be got cleared from the State Environmental Committee,

(iii) Working Group has been constituted fos identificatian of biospheric reserves in Karnataka.

(iv) Taking action under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act to prevent and Control Water Pollution and implementing the Trees Act for preservation of trees.

(c)—

(i) The Kudremukh Project Authorities have taken measures as recommended by the Committee to retain ecological balances,

(ii) 232 heavy, major and medium industries in the State have been taken up for evaluating water pollution caused by them ;

(iii) Beautification around Vidhana Soudha,

(iv) Constituting the Trees Authorities in Urban and Rural areas.

(v) Kalinadi Project Authority has been advised to maintain the ecological balance.

SRI G. B. SHANKAR RAO.—The Board to prevent water pollution in our State was onstituted long ago in 1974 and you have mentioned

about it and about the sub-committees in your reply. may I know the report about the working of sub-committees as well as the main committee during all these 5 years? Are you prepared to place the report of these committees in the floor of the House for the benefit of this Hon. House?

†SRI H. C. SRIKANTAIAH.—There are six sub-committees: one is the physical or living environment of the settlement; second is the problem of water pollution; third is the problem of atmospheric polution; fourth is the protection of flora and fauna; fifth is the study of impact major projects and sixth is the environmental legislation and administration. These committees are all working and giving advice to Government and to the industries and the projects.

SRI G. B. SHANKAR RAO.—Is the Government aware that they constituted a committee to suggest measures to prevent atmospheric pollution? Unless we have a separate independent board constituted under the Central Act recently passed by the Parliament, can you hope to take any action against the erring industries which pollute the air? Is the Hon. Minister anxious to constitute such a board ?

SRI H. C. SRIKANTAIAH.—It is a good suggestion; that will be considered.

SRI G. B SHANKAR RAO.—About water pollution you have mentioned only two project which contribute to it *viz.* the Kudremukh Project and the Kalinadi Project. They are all Government projects. You have not mentioned about the action Government has taken in the matter of water pollution by p ivate industries like Harihar Polyfibres, Mangalore Chemicals and Fertilizers and Dandeli Paper Mills. May I know what action you have taken against them and whether you have awarded any punishment against them and whether you have awarded any punishment against these industries because the water pollution created by these industries pose a health hazard?

SRI H. C. SRIKANTAIAH.—The Karnataka Board for Prevention and Control of Water Pollution has taken action to evaluate the potential of 232 heavy, major and medium industries in the State by sample collection, analysis and identification of pollutions in thier effluents.

SRI G. B. SHANKAR RAO.—Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to give the number of industries and Municipalities and Corporations which have erred so far and the punishment awarded by the State Government where they have failed to implement the provisions of the Act?

SRI H. C. SRIKANTAIAH —Nobody has failed; they are implementing it. It is a slow process All the major and medium industries have been informed to take up this work immediately and they have been given suitable instructions in this respect.

SRI G. B. SHANKAR RAO.—Are all these 232 industries located in the basins of our major rivers and particularly are the industries that are being started round about Bangalore City on the banks of Rishabavati and other rivers included in this number?

SRI H. C. SRIKANTAIAH.—They are included.

SRI G. B. SHANKAR RAO.—As for the air pollution by the smoke emitted by the heavy vehicles especially in the cities of Bangalore, Belgaum, Mangalore, Hubli-Dharwar, etc. where you have got a large population, are you aware of the seriousness of the health hazard committed by the free emission of smoke by the factories as well as transport vehicles which is so injurious to human health?

SRI H. C. SRIKANTAIAH.—Yes. Of course, it is a known fact. Even in Bangalore City nowadays air pollution is going from bad to-worse. We have given to this Board all powers to control this pollution.

SRI G. B. SHANKAR RAO.—Will you take immediate action to constitute a board under the Central Act to prevent air pollution?

[No reply]

Forest under the Jurisdiction of the Forest Range Officers Huliyurdurga, Tumkur District.

705 SRI D. T. MAYANNA (Huliyurdurga).—Will the Minister for Food and Forest be pleased to state:—

(a) the names of Manna Junglies coming under the jurisdiction of the Range Forest Officer, Huliurdurgs, Kunigal Taluk, Tumkur District;

(b) the extent of such Manna Junglies;

(c) the amount spent by the Government for the development of each such Junglies yearwise details may be furnished ;

(d) the number of Sandalwood trees that were in existence in these Junglies; ten years ago;

(e) the present number of Sandalwood trees?